WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND IS DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTER PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:

1. A gateway apparatus connected to a telephone network and the Internet, comprising:

a facsimile communications mechanism configured to receive facsimile communications protocols and facsimile information from a calling facsimile apparatus coupled to said telephone network through said telephone network;

an Internet communications mechanism configured to transmit said facsimile information in a packet format to a called facsimile apparatus coupled to said telephone network via a different gateway apparatus through the Internet and the telephone network;

a memory storing data representing a calling facsimile number of said calling facsimile apparatus in association with a called facsimile number of said called facsimile apparatus; and

a communications controller configured to determine before establishing a line connection with said calling facsimile apparatus whether said facsimile number of said calling facsimile apparatus is registered in said memory as the calling facsimile number, to cause said different gateway apparatus to initiate a call to said called facsimile apparatus using said called facsimile number when said

facsimile number of said calling facsimile apparatus is determined as registered in said memory as the calling facsimile number, and to establish a line connection upon a receipt of an acknowledgement indicating the line is connectable from said called facsimile apparatus.

2. A gateway apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein said data stored in said memory represents said calling facsimile number of said calling facsimile apparatus in association with a plurality of called facsimile numbers including the facsimile number of said called facsimile apparatus, each of said facsimile numbers being previously designated with a time parameter, and said communications controller selects facsimile numbers from among said plurality of said called facsimile numbers based on said time parameter and additional time information corresponding to said time parameter so as to cause said different gateway apparatus to initiate a call to facsimile apparatuses using said selected facsimile numbers.

3. A gateway apparatus as defined in Claim 2, wherein said time parameter includes arbitrary transmission start and arbitrary transmission completion times and said additional time information includes a call acceptance time.

4. A gateway apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein said communications controller performs a new registration and changes the contents of registration in said memory in accordance with an instruction from said calling facsimile apparatus.

5. A gateway apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein said facsimile communications protocols includes G3 facsimile protocols.

6. A gateway apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein said packet format includes a TCP/IP packet format.

7. A gateway apparatus connected to a telephone network and the Internet, comprising:

facsimile communications means for receiving facsimile communications protocols and facsimile information from a calling facsimile apparatus coupled to said telephone network through said telephone network;

Internet communications means for transmitting said facsimile information in a packet format to a called facsimile apparatus coupled to said telephone network via a different gateway apparatus through the Internet and the telephone network;

storing means for storing data representing a calling

facsimile number of said calling facsimile apparatus in association with a called facsimile number of said called facsimile apparatus; and

communications controlling means for determining before establishing a line connection with said calling facsimile apparatus whether said facsimile number of said calling facsimile apparatus is registered in said storing means as the calling facsimile number, causing said different gateway apparatus to initiate a call to said called facsimile apparatus using said called facsimile number when said facsimile number of said calling facsimile apparatus is determined as registered in said storing means as the calling facsimile number, and establishing a line connection upon a receipt of an acknowledgement indicating the line is connectable from said called facsimile apparatus.

8. A gateway apparatus as defined in Claim 7, wherein said data stored in said storing means represents said calling facsimile number of said calling facsimile apparatus in association with a plurality of called facsimile numbers including the facsimile number of said called facsimile apparatus, each of said facsimile numbers being previously designated with a time parameter, and said communications controlling means selects facsimile numbers from among said plurality of said called facsimile numbers

based on said time parameter and additional time information corresponding to said time parameter so as to cause said different gateway apparatus to initiate a call to facsimile apparatuses using said selected facsimile numbers.

9. A gateway apparatus as defined in Claim 8, wherein said time parameter includes arbitrary transmission start and arbitrary transmission completion times and said additional time information includes a call acceptance time.

10. A gateway apparatus as defined in Claim 7, wherein said communications controlling means performs a new registration and changes the contents of registration in said storing means in accordance with an instruction from said calling facsimile apparatus.

11. A gateway apparatus as defined in Claim 7, wherein said facsimile communications protocols includes G3 facsimile protocols.

12. A gateway apparatus as defined in Claim 7, wherein said packet format includes a TCP/IP packet format.

13. A method of transmitting facsimile information from a calling facsimile apparatus to a called facsimile

apparatus through the Internet using a packet format, comprising the steps of:

storing data representing a calling facsimile number of a calling facsimile apparatus in association with a called facsimile number of a called facsimile apparatus;

receiving a call from said calling facsimile apparatus, said call including facsimile communications protocols;

determining before establishing a line connection with said calling facsimile apparatus whether said facsimile number of said calling facsimile apparatus is registered as the calling facsimile number in said storing step;

initiating a call to said called facsimile apparatus using said called facsimile number when said facsimile number of said calling facsimile apparatus is determined as registered in said storing step as the calling facsimile number; and

establishing a line connection upon a receipt of an acknowledgement indicating the line is connectable from said called facsimile apparatus.

14. A method as defined in Claim 13, wherein said data stored in said storing step represents said calling facsimile number of said calling facsimile apparatus in association with a plurality of called facsimile numbers including the facsimile number of said called facsimile

apparatus, each of said facsimile numbers being previously designated with a time parameter,

said method further comprises a selecting step for selecting facsimile numbers from among said plurality of said called facsimile numbers based on said time parameter and additional time information corresponding to said time parameter so as to initiate a call to facsimile apparatuses using said selected facsimile numbers.

15. A method as defined in Claim 14, wherein said time parameter includes arbitrary transmission start and arbitrary transmission completion times and said additional time information includes a call acceptance time.

16. A method as defined in Claim 13, wherein said storing step is performed in accordance with an instruction from said calling facsimile apparatus.

17. A method as defined in Claim 13, wherein said facsimile communications protocols includes G3 facsimile protocols.

18. A method as defined in Claim 13, wherein said packet format includes a TCP/IP packet format.

19. An Internet facsimile system, comprising:

a gateway apparatus connected to a telephone network and the Internet, said gateway apparatus comprising:

a facsimile communications mechanism configured to receive facsimile communications protocols and facsimile information from a calling facsimile apparatus coupled to said telephone network through said telephone network;

an Internet communications mechanism configured to transmit said facsimile information in a packet format to a called facsimile apparatus coupled to said telephone network via a different gateway apparatus through the Internet and the telephone network;

a memory storing data representing a calling facsimile number of said calling facsimile apparatus in association with a called facsimile number of said called facsimile apparatus; and

a communications controller configured to determine before establishing a line connection with said calling facsimile apparatus whether said facsimile number of said calling facsimile apparatus is registered in said memory as the calling facsimile number, to cause said different gateway apparatus to initiate a call to said called facsimile apparatus using said called facsimile number when said facsimile number of said calling facsimile apparatus is determined as registered in said memory as the calling

facsimile number, and to establish a line connection upon a receipt of an acknowledgement indicating the line is connectable from said called facsimile apparatus.

20. A system as defined in Claim 19, wherein said data stored in said memory represents said calling facsimile number of said calling facsimile apparatus in association with a plurality of called facsimile numbers including the facsimile number of said called facsimile apparatus, each of said facsimile numbers being previously designated with a time parameter, and said communications controller selects facsimile numbers from among said plurality of said called facsimile numbers based on said time parameter and additional time information corresponding to said time parameter so as to cause said different gateway apparatus to initiate a call to facsimile apparatuses using said selected facsimile numbers.

21. A system as defined in Claim 20, wherein said time parameter includes arbitrary transmission start and arbitrary transmission completion times and said additional time information includes a call acceptance time.

22. A system as defined in Claim 19, wherein said communications controller performs a new registration and

changes the contents of registration in said memory in accordance with an instruction from said calling facsimile apparatus.

23. A system as defined in Claim 19, wherein said facsimile communications protocols includes G3 facsimile protocols.

24. A system as defined in Claim 19, wherein said packet format includes a TCP/IP packet format.

25. A computer readable medium storing computer instructions for performing the steps recited in anyone of Claims 13 - 18.